

Message Text

UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 01 CANBER 01888 210157Z

ACTION EA-09

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SS-15 NSC-05 INR-07 INRE-00 SSO-00

NSCE-00 PRS-01 /038 W

-----210240Z 019161 /63

O 210145Z MAR 77

FM AMEMBASSY CANBERRA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 0016

UNCLAS CANBERRA 1888

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PDID, AS

SUBJECT: RUMORED NEW U.S. AMBASSADOR TO AUSTRALIA

BASED ON REPORT FIRST CARRIED IN FEB. 18 ATLANTA CONSTITUTION, AUSTRALIAN MEDIA PICKED UP AND PROMINENTLY PLAYED WHITE HOUSE INTENTION TO NOMINATE ATLANTA LAWYER PHILIP H. ALSTON, JR. AS NEW AMBASSADOR TO AUSTRALIA. LOCAL MEDIA HAS GIVEN WIDE BUT RELATIVELY LOW-KEYED COVERAGE OF REPORT WHICH EMBASSY HAS TREATED AS PURELY SPECULATION. ONE REPORT FROM U.S.- BASED AUSTRALIAN CORRESPONDENT CLAIMS "A SENIOR WHITE HOUSE OFFICIAL WOULD NOT CONFIRM THE REPORT, NOR WOULD HE DENY IT." ANOTHER QUOTED ALSTON AS SAYING HE AND HIS WIFE WERE "VERY ENTHUSIASTIC AT THE PROSPECT BUT I DON'T FEEL IT APPROPRIATE TO MAKE ANY OTHER STATEMENT UNTIL THERE IS AN OFFICIAL ANNOUNCEMENT." REACTION IN AUSTRALIA HAS BEEN MIXED. ONE RADIO REPORT WAS CRITICAL OF THE RUMORED APPOINTMENT, CLAIMING IT WAS CONTRARY TO PRESIDENT CARTER'S CAMPAIGN RHETORIC WHICH IMPLIED FEWER POLITICAL APPOINTMENTS AND NO CRONYISM. IN CONTRAST, THE MELBOURNE AGE, ONE OF THE COUNTRY'S BETTER NEWSPAPERS, EDITORIALIZED MONDAY THAT MR. ALSTON "SOUNDS LIKE JUST THE MAN WE NEED." THE PAPER NOTED THAT ALTHOUGH HE HAS NO PREVIOUS DIPLOMATIC EXPERIENCE, AND NO SPECIALIST KNOWLEDGE OF AUSTRALIA, HE COMES WITH THE CREDENTIALS OF A "PRESIDENTIAL LIAISON MAN" AND WOULD BE MORE WELCOME THAN A HANDFUL OF

UNCLASSIFIED

UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 02 CANBER 01888 210157Z

CAREER DIPLOMATS WHO LACK THE "DIRECT LINE".

ACTION REQUESTED: ANY GUIDANCE DEPARTMENT MAY BE USING.
PERCIVAL

UNCLASSIFIED

NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: NOMINATION, AMBASSADORS, PERSONNEL ASSIGNMENTS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Sent Date: 21-Mar-1977 12:00:00 am
Decaption Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: n/a
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment:
Disposition Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1977CANBER01888
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D770095-1149
Format: TEL
From: CANBERRA
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1977/newtext/t19770340/aaaabioz.tel
Line Count: 59
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: e4815cb5-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ACTION EA
Original Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: n/a
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 21-Sep-2004 12:00:00 am
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 3052338
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: RUMORED NEW U.S. AMBASSADOR TO AUSTRALIA BASED ON REPORT FIRST CARRIED IN FEB. 18 ATLANTA CONSTITUTION, AUSTRALIAN MEDIA PICKED UP AND PROMINENTLY P LAYED
TAGS: PDIP, AS, US, (ALSTON, PHILIP H JR)
To: STATE
Type: TE
vdkgvkey: odb://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/e4815cb5-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
22 May 2009
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 22 May 2009